

IN THE CLAIMS:

Page 1, before the first claim, please insert the section heading:

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--What is claimed is:--

Please replace claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A latch mechanism including;
  - a latch bolt moveable between a primary latched position and an open position,

a first pawl moveable between a first engaged position, where the first pawl secures the latch bolt in at least its primary latched position and a second released position, where the first pawl releases the latch bolt from at least its first primary latched position,

release means moveable between a first engaged position, where the release means allows the first pawl to achieve its first engaged position and a second released position, where the release means retains the first pawl in its second released position, and

a second pawl moveable between a first engaged position, where the second pawl is capable of retaining the release means in its second released position, and a second released position, where the second pawl releases the release means from its second released position,

such that the latch mechanism can be latched and unlatched.

Please replace claim 4 as follows:

4. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which the latch bolt additionally has a secondary latched position intermediate the primary latch position and the open position.

af [Please replace claim 5 as follows:]

5. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which a trip abutment on the latch bolt is capable of moving the second pawl from its first engaged position to its second released position allowing the latch mechanism to latch.

af [Please replace claim 7 as follows:]

7. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 5 in which the trip abutment does not affect retention of the release means in its second released position by the second pawl during movement of the latch bolt from its primary or secondary latched position to its open position.

[Please replace claim 8 as follows:]

8. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 5 in which the trip abutment moves the second pawl by engagement with a third pawl.

Please replace claim 10 as follows:

10. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 8 in which the third pawl is mounted on the second pawl.

af [Please replace claim 11 as follows:]

11. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 8 in which the third pawl is mounted on a chassis of the latch assembly.

[Please replace claim 12 as follows:]

12. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which a first arm of the release means is engaged to move the release means from its first engaged position to its second released position.

[Please replace claim 13 as follows:]

13. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 in which an arm (56) of the release means is engaged by the second pawl to retain the release means in its second released position.

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[Please replace claim 14 as follows:]

14. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 1 including a power actuator having a motor and a drive train.

✓  
Please replace claim 16 as follows:

16. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 14 in which the drive train only operates in one direction.

[Please replace claim 17 as follows:]

17. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 14 in which the drive train includes a first abutment operable to move the release means from its first engaged position to its second released position.

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[Please replace claim 18 as follows:]

18. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 17 in which the first abutment of the drive train engages the first arm of the release means.

[Please replace claim 19 as follows:]

19. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 14 in which the drive train includes a second abutment which co-operates with the release means to provide a drive train stop.

✓  
Please replace claim 21 as follows:

21. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in claim 19 when dependent upon claim 17 in which the first abutment is capable of acting as the second abutment.

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[Please replace claim 22 as follows:]

22. (Amended) A latch mechanism including a power actuator, the power actuator having a motor and a drive train, the drive train having at least one abutment for engagement with a release means of the latch mechanism, energization of the motor causing the abutment to move the release means from a first engaged position to a second released position to release the latch, in which a retention means (58) is capable of retaining the release means in its second released position.

[Please replace claim 23 as follows:]

GA 23. (Amended) A latch mechanism including a power actuator, the power actuator having a motor and a drive train, the drive train having a plurality of abutments for engagement with a release arrangement of the latch mechanism, energization of the motor causing one of the plurality of abutments to move the release arrangement from a first engaged position to second released position to release the latch, resulting in another of the plurality of abutments co-operating with the release arrangement to provide a drive train stop.

[Please replace claim 24 as follows:]

24. (Amended) A latch mechanism as defined in Claim 23 in which the latch mechanism includes a latch bolt moveable between a primary latch position and an open position, and the release arrangement includes a first pawl moveable between a first engaged position where the first pawl secures the latch bolt in at least its primary latch position and a second release position, where the first pawl releases the latch bolt from at least its first primary latch position, the release arrangement further including release means moveable between the first engaged position, where the release means allows the first pawl to achieve its first engaged position and a second release position where the release means retains the first pawl in its second release position.

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